

Atty Docket No.: 10407/518
Serial No. 09/966,776

that this shortened statutory period for reply supersedes the time period set in the prior (final) Office Action. Thus, this is an additional reply to the final Office Action (since the first response was not entered); and is a complete reply to the prior (final) Office Action in order to rectify the RCE, which was the previous *bona fide* attempt to reply to the final Office Action.

Claims 1-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 4, 12, 20, 25, 26, 28-32, and 35 have been withdrawn from consideration. Currently, claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19, 21-24, 27, 33 and 34 have been rejected. Specifically, claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-11, 13-14, 27, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koope (U.S. Patent No. 5,690,402). Claims 9-11, 13-19, 21-24, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nunn (U.S. Patent No. 5,048,900). Claims 7-8 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Koope in view of Nunn. Claims 1-3, 9-11, 17-19, 27, 33, and 34 have been amended. No new claims have been added, and no claims have been deleted. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims. Applicant respectfully contends that the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art.

AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that additional extensions of time or fees for the net addition of claims are required, beyond those that are otherwise provided for in the documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Brown Raysman's Deposit Account No. 502811.